

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2591

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T PARIS 22157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SREF EAID PO FR N GW AO UK

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED
DEMARCHES

REF: PARIS 21854; STATE 204463

SUMMARY: FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED AGAINST MAKING
DEMARCHE TO PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ PARALLEL
TO OURS BECAUSE IT IS FELT THAT COMMUNIST CONTROLLED
MEDIA WOULD EXPLOIT SUCH ACTION TO DETRIMENT OF
MODERATES. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WILL, HOWEVER,
CALL IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR EARLY NEXT WEEK TO EXPRESS
GOF CONCERN AT SITUATION IN LISBON, AND REITERATE PRE-
VIOUS WARNING THAT EC-9 WILL NOT PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSIS-
TANCE WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY. END
SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL CALLED
ME TO THE QUAI THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO RECEIVE REPLY TO
OUR REQUEST THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR MAKE DEMARCHE TO
COSTA GOMEZ IN SUPPORT OF ONE ALREADY MADE BY AMBASSADOR
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CARLUCCI (REFTELS). DE COURCEL SAID REPLY WAS APPROVED

BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

2. DE COURCEL SAID GOF VIEWS PORTUGUESE SITUATION WITH SAME PREOCCUPATION AS USG. FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHARES OUR POINT OF VIEW AND HAS SAME OBJECTIVE IN PORTUGAL. HE RECALLED THAT GOF WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE STRONGEST ADVOCATE IN EC-9 OF POLICY TO WITHHOLD ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL UNTIL THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES WILL BE FOLLOWED. HE SAID QUAI HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LISBON ON CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI. THEY WERE AWARE, THEREFORE, THAT MODERATES IN LISBON WERE IN FAVOR OF ALLIED DEMARCHES TO COSTA GOMEZ.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR, GOF HAS DECIDED IT IS TOO RISKY TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMEZ AS SUGGESTED. NEWS MEDIA IN PORTUGAL ARE SUBSTANTIALLY CONTROLLED BY COMMUNISTS, AND GOF FEARS THAT STREAM OF WESTERN DEMARCHES WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO DETRIMENT OF MODERATE CAUSE.

4. BECAUSE GOF SHARES OUR PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO CALL IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WHEN THEY BOTH RETURN TO PARIS EARLY NEXT WEEK. SAUVAGNARGUES WILL EXPRESS GOF CONCERN ABOUT COURSE OF EVENTS IN LISBON AND WILL REMIND PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THAT EC-9 WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING WITH ASSISTANCE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THAT PORTUGAL IS TAKING PATH TOWARD PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY.

5. IN FINAL NOTE, DE COURCEL SAID GOF WILL BE SENDING A FEW MORE FLIGHTS TO LUANDA TO RETURN PORTUGUESE REFUGEES TO LISBON TO TERMINATE PURELY HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BEGUN ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE REQUESTED GOF ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING PORTUGUESE REFUGEES IN NAMIBIA, BUT GOF RESPONDED NEGATIVELY.
GAMMON

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